and (b) The Planning Commission has formulated the Ninth Plan of all States including North East States based on not only the resource based formula but also with due emphasis on infrastructure development. This is to be achieved by various measures which inter-alia include the following:

(i) Creating supportive measure for the development of infrastructure—both physical & social and rapid enhancement of sustainable employment to enable the States of North East Region to joint the mainstream of economic development of the country;

(ii) Setting up of a High Level Commission (HLC) to suggest measures for the development of various Sectors including infrastructure in each State of the North East.

(iii) Creating a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for funding specific projects in the North East Region.

The details regarding the above are already given in the Ninth Plan document approved by the National Development Council.

Declining Trend in Investment

2613. SHRI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of Plan fund allocated to agriculture, rural development during the last five years;

(b) whether Government have so far been able to arrest the declining trends in investment in these sectors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that Plan funds allocated to these sectors are not diverted to other sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Year wise percentage of allocation of plan funds under State Plans and Central Sector is as under:

Year	Agriculture& allied activities	Rural Development
1993-94	5.4	7.0
1994-95	5.3	8.6
1995-96	5.2	9.1
1996-97	4.8	9.9
1997-98	4.5	9.2

(b) to (d) Allocations of increased plan funds are made to Agriculture and Rural Development programmes in the state Plans and Central Sector. While States are given flexibility for allocation of funds among different sectors, Central Sector funds are provided on the basis of utilisation under various plan programmes for Agriculture and Rural Development. Additionally, funds are also available under programmes for irrigation, which directly boost the investment in rural economy. The Ninth Plan envisages provision of Rural Infrastructure Development Funds and revamping of cooperative institutions to encourage and enhance investment in Agriculture.

कार्य दल में निजी क्षेत्र का प्रतिनिधित्व

2614. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा रोजगार के संबंध में किसी कार्य दल का गठन किया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस कार्य दल में निजी क्षेत्र से एक भी प्रतिनिधि को शामिल नहीं किया गया है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नायक): (क) जी, हां, योजना आयोग द्वारा रोजगार अवसरों संबंधी एक कार्यदल का गठन किया गया है;

(ख) जी नहीं, इस कार्यदल में निजी सैक्टर के प्रतिनिधि शामिल हैं;

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Outcome of NDC Meeting

2615. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the criteria for finalising agenda for NDC meeting and to what extent the State Governments and NGO's are involved in fixing agenda;

(b) the criteria for monitoring the decision taken at NDC meetings and the extent to NGO involvement thereof;

(c) what were the salient outcome of recently concluded NDC meet; and

(d) whether the council has fixed any time-bound programme for alleviation of rural poverty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The agenda for a meeting of National Development Council (NDC) can cover any subject falling within the purview of the *functions of the Council, as contained in the* Resolution dated 7th October, 1967 on the subject.

2. The functions of the NDC are:

(i) to prescribe guidelines for the formulation of the National Plan, including the assessment of resources for the Plan;

(ii) to consider the National Plan, as formulated by the Planning Commission;

(iii) to consider the important questions of social and economic policy affecting *national development.*

(iv) to review the working of the Plan from time to time and to recommend such measures as are necessary for achieving the aims and targets set out in the national Plan, including measures to secure the active participation and cooperation of the people, improve the efficiency of the administrative services, ensure the fullest development of the less advanced regions and sections of the community and, through sacrifice borne equally by all citizens, build up resources for national development.

(b) and (c) Decisions taken at the meetings of the NDC are monitored by the Planning Commission. The following decisions were reached at the meeting of the NDC held on 19th February, 1999:—

(1) The NDC approved the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002), as placed before the Council.

(2) The NDC endorsed the recommendations of the NDC Committee on Power and urged the Union, State and UT Governments to implement these recommendations on priority.

(3) It was suggested by the NDC that, while revising the administered prices of essential commodities, a balance needs to be struck between the interests of farmers and consumers, particularly the poorer sections of society, and the macro-economic imperatives of fiscal stabilisation and control of inflation.

(4) The NDC decided to constitute two Sub-Committees under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, with members from the Central Ministries and States, to go into (a) the criteria for allocation of funds under major rural poverty alleviation schemes and (b) the transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and the modalities involved therein.

(d) While the Ninth Plan envisages continuation of various ongoing poverty alleviation schemes, no time-bound programme for the same has been determined.

देश की अर्थव्यवस्था के संबंध में आकलन

2616. श्री परमेश्वर कुमार अग्रवाला: क्या प्रधानमंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय सांख्यिकीय संगठन ने अर्थवयवस्था के आकलन संबंधी प्रक्रिया में व्यापक परिवर्तन किए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इसके परिणामस्वरूप अर्थव्यव्था संबंधी सांख्यिकीय आंकड़ों, सकल घरेलू उत्पाद, उद्योग, कृषि और अन्य प्रमुख क्षेत्रों की वृद्धि दर में क्या परिवर्तन हुए हैं?